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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

Bibliographical Reform.—At the Baltimore meeting of the American Society of Naturalists (Dec., 1894), a committee was appointed to consider Dr. H. H. Field's plans for bibliographical reform, the committee to report in print. That committee would report as follows:

Dr. H. H. Field, in view of the well-known imperfections and shortcomings of all existing records of zoological literature, has formulated plans which will give the zoological world an approximately complete index of all literature as promptly as possible. This record will be issued in the form of bulletins, each number of which will be distributed as soon as sufficient material has been accumulated to make a "signature." The same bulletin will also be issued printed only on one side of the page to allow for cutting up for special bibliographies. Lastly, the separate titles will be issued upon cards of the standard "index" size. Each title will be followed by a few words giving the subject and scope of the article, when this is not sufficiently indicated by the title, while the cards will have, in addition, catch numbers, so that any library assistant can readily incorporate them in the card catalogue.

The plan contemplates a union of existing bibliographies with this one. In the case of the Naples *Jahresbericht*, this will consist in co-operation, this series continuing as the yearly morphological analysis of the bibliography. It is to be hoped that the Zoological Record will co-operate in a similar way, devoting itself to the systematic side, and, by aid of the new facilities of co-operation, increase its present usefulness to students. Arrangements have now progressed so far that it seems probable that the records of literature in the *Zoologischer* and *Anatomischer Anzeigers* will be merged in the new scheme, and, it is hoped, that the one in the *Archiv für Naturgeschichte* will take the same course. If sufficient encouragement be given, it is proposed to include physiology in the scope of the new plan. The net gain will be fewer bibliographies, wider scope, nearer approximation to completeness, and more prompt publication.

The central office of the work will be established at Zürich, Switzerland, and it may be said that the cantonal government has already appropriated 2000 francs annually to its support, and will supply suitable quarters for its work. France has promised a similar sum, and

aid is expected from Germany, from the International Congress of Zoologists, and from the British Association for the Advancement of Science. Committees have been appointed in France, Germany and Russia to co-operate in making the record as complete as possible. Lastly, publishers stand ready to undertake the publications of the bulletins, cards, etc., without expense to the central office, since the sales are estimated to fully cover all cost of manufacture. The only matter unprovided for is that of preparing the record for the printer, and this is already so far provided for that if America can give \$500, the beginning of the work with the year 1896 can be assured.

Your committee, having examined the matter in detail, would therefore report that they regard the plan as one worthy the fullest support of the American scientific world. They recommend it as worthy of financial support, and would urge all publishers and publishing institutions to send all periodicals and other works, or, in the case of books, at least the correct title and a summary of contents prepared by the author, promptly to the central bureau. They would finally recommend the appointment of a permanent committee of ten, to co-operate with similar committees in other countries in forwarding the movement.

Signed: SAMUEL H. SCUDDER,

H. P. BOWDITCH,

HENRY F. OSBORN,

E. A. ANDREWS,

J. S. KINGSLEY,

Committee.

In this connection it is well to state that the funds desired from America have been obtained: \$250 from the Elizabeth Thompson fund, \$250 from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and \$50 from the American Society of Microscopists. Arrangements have been concluded for the publication, by Englemann, of Leipzig, of a "*Bibliographica Zoologica*," as a continuation of the "*Litteratur*" of the *Zoologischer Anzeiger*, and by Fischer of Jena, of a "*Bibliographica Anatomica*" to contain the morphological titles. The price for the first will be 15 marks a year, that of the *Anatomica* has not yet been fixed. Cards containing the titles will be issued at from \$2.00 to \$3.00, according to the number taken. Arrangements are now in progress for the inclusion of physiology in the plan, and steps have already been taken looking to the later incorporation of botanical literature.

Botanical readers will be pleased to hear that another part of Gray's Synoptical Flora of North America, beginning with *Ranunculaceæ*, is

now in press. Every encouragement should be given for the completion of this magnificent work.

Dr. J. P. Lotsy, formerly at Johns Hopkins University, has accepted a position with Dr. Treub, at Buitensorg, Java. It is said that the Macmillans will shortly issue an important work by him on the Morphology of Reproduction in Cryptogams.

Dr. James Ellis Humphrey will be instructor in Botany at Johns Hopkins the coming year. It is much to be regretted that this great university cannot see its way clear to the founding of a chair of Botany.

W. T. Swingle, of the Division of Vegetable Physiology and Pathology, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has secured leave of absence, and will spend a year or two at German Universities. He goes first to Strasburger at Bonn, and will subsequently study with Göbel at Munich.

President and Mrs. Fairchild, of the State Agriculture College, Manhattan, Kansas, spent the summer travelling in Great Britain and on the Continent. Mrs. Kedzie accompanied them.

David G. Fairchild, formerly of the Division of Vegetable Physiology and Pathology, in the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has spent the last two years studying botany at various European centers—Naples, Breslau, Berlin, Münster. He is now studying fungi with Brefeld, and contemplates spending the winter at the great tropical botanic garden at Buitensorg in Java.

During the summer there were several changes in the personelle of the Division of Animal Pathology, in the Bureau of Animal Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Dr. Theobald Smith, for a long time Chief of Division and widely known on account of his bacteriological researches, has become Bacteriologist to the Massachusetts State Board of Health and Lecturer at Harvard; Dr. V. A. Moore takes his place, and Dr. P. A. Fish, of Cornell Univ., becomes Dr. Moore's assistant.

Dr. C. W. Stiles, of the Bureau of Animal Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has returned from a two months trip to Europe, made partly for the sake of attending the International Zoological Congress at Leiden.

Dr. Volney M. Spalding has resumed his duties as Professor of Botany in the University of Michigan, having recently returned from a two years' sojourn at German Universities, most of which time was spent with Pfeffer in Leipsic, at the British Museum, and with Brefeld in Münster.

Dr. Lucien M. Underwood has been called to the chair of Botany in the Agricultural and Mechanical College at Auburn, Alabama.

Dr. Engler, of Berlin, in conjunction with other distinguished botanists, has, in preparation, a new edition of Grisebach's famous treatise, *Die Vegetation der Erde*, which has been out of print some time. Mr. Th. Holm, of the Division of Vegetable Physiology and Pathology in the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has been asked to contribute the portion on North American Gramineæ and Cyperaceæ.

Mr. F. S. Earle, of Ocean Springs, Miss., has been appointed Assistant in the Division of Vegetable Physiology and Pathology in the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Vice Joseph F. James, resigned. Mr. Earle will have charge of the herbarium.

Mr. O. F. Cook is contemplating a third trip to the west coast of Africa. Mrs. Cook will accompany him. The next volume of the Transactions of the New York Academy of Science will contain an important systematic paper on Myriapods, from his pen.

The Entomological Society of Washington will devote the next number of its Proceedings to a memorial of Prof. C. V. Riley, who was the founder of the Society and always an active member.

The Australian Museum, at Sydney, still suffers from small appropriations by Parliament, and during the year 1894 it was working with a reduced staff and with practically no money for increase or publication. Dr. Ramsay, owing to ill-health, has resigned his position as Curator after 20 years' service, but still retains a connection with the museum. Mr. Robert Etheridge, Jr., has been appointed as his successor. The total income for the year 1895 was about £6,000, and 120,000 persons visited the museum during the year, 34,000 of these coming on Sundays. Among the most interesting additions to the museum were a number of relics of Capt. Cook, the list of which would seem to indicate that this antipodial museum has about as large a collection of specimens collected by Capt. Cook and of memorials of him as has the museum at Oxford. The museum has also received a considerable collection of aboriginal pottery from Arkansas.

Dr. A. I. Vernelil, the well-known anatomist and surgeon, of Paris, died June 12.

Dr. A. Froriep has been made Ordinary Professor of Anatomy, at Tübingen.

Dr. W. C. Williamson, the botanist and paleobotanist of Owens College, Manchester, England, died June 23, aged 79.

Dr. J. Strahl, of Marburg, has been appointed Ordinary Professor of Anatomy, in Giessen.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science appropriated \$250, and the American Society of Microscopists \$25.00 towards Dr. Field's Bibliographical Bureau.

Dr. Karl Müller, of Berlin, goes as Professor of Technical Botany to the Technical School of Charlottenburg.

Dr. N. V. Ussing becomes Professor of Mineralogy in the University of Copenhagen, in place of Dr. von Johnstrup.

George Murray has been appointed Custodian of Botany in the British Museum, in place of Dr. Carruthers.

Dr. L. Plate is Privat-docent in Zoology in the University of Berlin.

Dr. Max Verworn has been appointed Extraordinary Professor of Physiology in Jena.

Dr. Albert Günther has retired from his position as Director of the Zoological Department of the British Museum, having reached the age-limit of the British Civil Service.

Count Angelo Manzoni, geologist and paleontologist, died in Ravenna, Italy, July 14, 1895.

Dr. W. Roux, of Innsbruck, goes to the University of Halle as Professor of Anatomy.

Sir John Tomes, well-known for his researches on the teeth, is dead at the age of 80 years.

Dr. E. Ihne has been appointed Professor of Botany in the Technical School at Darmstadt.

Rev. J. G. Morris for many years recognized as an eminent student of American Lepidoptera died at his home near Baltimore, October 10. Dr. Morris was born in 1803 and has long been considered one of the fathers of American entomology. His catalogue of the Lepidoptera published in 1860 by the Smithsonian Institution and his Synopsis of Diurnal and Crepuscular Lepidoptera are the publications by which he was best known to entomologists.

Dr. Albert E. Foote, of Philadelphia, died recently in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Foote was born in Hamilton, N. Y., Feb. 6, 1846. After graduating at Cortland Academy, Homer, N. Y., he entered the class of 1867 in the University of the State of Michigan, where he took the

degree of Doctor of Medicine. After some time spent as an instructor at Ann Arbor, he was appointed Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Mineralogy in the Iowa State College.

In 1875, Dr. Foote removed to Philadelphia. He was a life member of the Academy of Natural Sciences, of the New York Lyceum of Natural History, and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Foote's extended travels, both in this country and in Europe, made him particularly well known in scientific circles. His chief interest was in mineralogy.

He was well known as one of the few professional dealers in objects of nature in the United States, and he made a financial success of it, leaving a competency to his family. As an antiquarian repository of works on natural history, Dr. Foote's establishment is without a rival in America.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

—SOME cultivators of the sciences occasionally complain that the meetings of scientific bodies are not well attended, and that they read papers to too many empty benches. Moreover, even when they have a scientific audience they allege that very few of those present understand what they have to say. And they speculate on measures to be adopted to remedy this state of affairs.

As the scientific investigator acquires years and experience, he recognizes that in the present state of human society he has no right to expect that the situation can be very different. The number of serious cultivators of science in any community is not large, and the number of men engaged in original research in any given field is still smaller. Like the landed aristocracy of the old nations, the producers in each department of science are well scattered over a country, and it is only on national occasions that they gather in any considerable force. The situation as to the audiences who assemble to listen to papers of original value in pure science is therefore not likely to change for some years. In fact, the size of audiences may be set down as inversely as the rationality, and directly as the emotionality of the matter set before them. Such is the present state of the civilized nations of the earth, and it is not peculiar to any one of them.